REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 22, 2008, the Examiner has objected to certain aspects of Claim 23. By this paper, it has been proposed to amend Claim 23 in a manner, kindly suggested by the Examiner, to overcome the objections and more particularly describe and claim that which Applicant considers to be the invention. Further, the Examiner has withdrawn Claims 31-44 from consideration and rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 12, and 23-30, and 50 under 35 USC § 103. By this paper, it is proposed that Claims 1 and 23 be amended, and Claim 50 be cancelled without prejudice. For the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that when amended as proposed the amended Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 12, and 23-30 should now be allowed.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 12, and 23 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaukeinen et al (JP 07043978 A) in view of Desie et al. (US 6,246,424 B1); Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaukeinen et al (JP 07043978 A) in view of Desie et al. (US 6,246,424 B1) and further in view of in view of Costrop et al. (US 5,848,339); Claims 23-27 and 30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaukeinen et al (JP 07043978 A) in view of Rushing (US 6,671,052 B1); and Claims 23, 28, and 29 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaukeinen et al (JP 07043978 A) in view of Desie et al. (US 6,246,424 B1) and further in view of Nakazato (US 6,483,997).

The Examiner acknowledges that the Kaukeinen et al (JP 07043978 A) reference does not disclose having an increased toning width. As previously discussed, in many common printing applications and powder coating applications which require a larger toning width, there exists a tradeoff between increasing the length of the toning roller and maintaining the uniformity of toner deposition, and therefore also the uniformity of laydown. That is, the toning width could be increased by increasing the length of the toning roller, but runout, spacing differences to the receiver along the length of the roller or other non-uniformities in the longer toning roller would cause an undesirable decrease in the uniformity of toner deposition and the image quality. The Examiner contends that the reference to Desie et al. discloses a plurality of overlapping toning stations to provide wide format printing. However, as previously pointed out, the Desie, et

al. reference, when utilizing the definition of a toning roller as specified by Applicant, shows only a single toning roller (element 103 in FIG. 4 of the reference) having overlapping areas provided with toner, and not multiple toning stations, offset perpendicular to the receiver transport path, with each toning station having a magnetic brush and a toning roller as claimed when amended as proposed herein. The single toning roller of the Desie, et al. reference presents the very problem noted as occurring in the prior art; that is, upon increasing the toning width by increasing the length of the toning roller can be problematic due to runout, spacing differences to the receiver along the length of the roller, or other non-uniformities in the longer toning roller which could cause a decrease in the uniformity of toner deposition and the image quality.

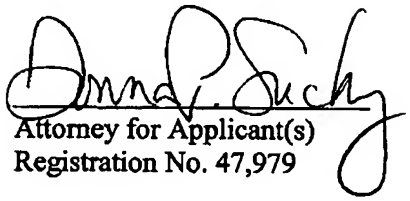
The remaining cited references to Kaukeinen, et al., Costrop, et al., Rushing, and Nakazato, et al. only develop images directly in line in the receiver transport path. They provide no teaching that could properly be used to suggest the combination with Desie, et al. to include multiple toning stations to extend the width of the development zone in the direction perpendicular to the receiver transport path. Therefore, Applicant's invention provides an improved system for increasing the toning width of a printer while still maintaining the quality of the resulting image and the uniformity of toner deposition. Thus, Applicant's invention, when claimed as proposed herein, provides a significant, non-obvious, improvement over any prior art, in any proper combination, known to Applicant.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention, when claimed as herein proposed, would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art when the references are taken alone or in any proper combination. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 12, and 23-30, when amended as herein proposed, the claims remaining in this Application, should now be allowed.

Applicant is not aware of any additional patents, publications, or other information not previously submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office which would be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.99.

When amended as requested, this Application is believed to be in condition for favorable reconsideration and early allowance, and such actions are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.